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09/909,189	07/19/2001	Chiharu Tanaka	01428/LH	9131

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EXAMINER

SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/909,189

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, CHIHARU

Examiner

Satwant K. Singh

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/19/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: Comma instead of period at the end of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-11, 14, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US 6,476,929) in view of Nihei (US 6,891,634).
4. Regarding Claim 1, Tanaka teaches a device capable of copying and printing image information comprising: a plurality of installation units installing a storage media (memory-card slot 10 and magneto-optic disk slot 12) (col. 5, lines 15-35); a first selection unit (memory card playback switches 2 and 3) selecting a first storage medium (memory card 31) from among the plurality of storage media installed on said installation units (memory card reader/writer 27); a second

Art Unit: 2626

selection unit selecting arbitrary image information stored in the first storage medium selected by said first selection unit (order switch 5); a third selection unit selecting one of a copying mode in which the image information is copied to a second storage medium (magneto-optic disk 32) different from the first storage medium (memory card 31) (image files and an order file that have been recorded on the memory card 31 inserted into the memory-card slot 10 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 inserted into the magneto-optic disk slot 12) (co. 5, lines 55-62); a mode processing unit processing the arbitrary image information selected by said second selection unit in a first mode (file integrating mode) (in this mode image files and an order file that have been recorded on the memory card 31 are recorded on the magneto-optic disk 32) (col. 6, lines 1-11) selected by said third selection unit, and performing a process in a second mode (print ordering mode) (in the print ordering mode, the user can order the printing of an image represented by image data that has been stored in an image file recorded on the magneto-optic disk 32) (col. 6, lines 12-15, col. 10, lines 15-21) according to the same image information as in the first mode if the second mode different from the first mode is selected after the process in the first mode is completed (Fig. 7). (Second mode (print ordering mode), at S41, occurs first then return to "J". Then first mode (file integrating mode) occurs second at S111 and copying "process" occurs).

Tanaka fails to teach a device capable of copying and printing image information, comprising printing mode in which the image information is printed.

Art Unit: 2626

Nihei teaches teach a device capable of copying and printing image information, comprising printing mode in which the image information is printed (Fig. 2, Print 31) (image data representing a plurality of images that have been recorded on the memory card 34, magneto-optic disk 35 and magnetic disk 36 are read out by the multiple-printer control apparatus 1 and allocated to each printer of the printers 50A to 50E) (col. 3, lines 7-15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka with the teaching of Nihei to incorporate the multiple-printer control apparatus into the order integrating apparatus to allow for direct printing of the images.

5. Regarding Claim 2, Tanaka teaches a device, wherein said first mode is the printing mode (print ordering mode) (Fig. 7, S41), and said second mode is the copying mode (file integrating mode) (Fig. 7, S111).

6. Claim 5 is rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

7. Regarding Claim 6, Tanaka teaches a device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a first selection unit (memory card playback switches 2 and 3) selecting a predetermined storage medium (memory card 31) from a plurality of installed storage media (memory card 31 and magneto-optic disk 32) (col. 5, lines 15-35); a second selection unit selecting predetermined image information from image information stored in a first storage medium selected by said first selection unit (order switch 5); a copying unit (copy switch 4) copying the predetermined image information selected by said second selection unit to a second storage medium selected by said first selection unit

Art Unit: 2626

(image files and an order file that have been recorded on the memory card 31 inserted into the memory-card slot 10 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 inserted into the magneto-optic disk slot 12) (col. 5, lines 55-62); a switch unit switching a mode into a printing mode (print ordering mode) in which said printing unit is driven (when the order switch 5 and magneto-optic disk playback switch 6 or 7 are pressed simultaneously, a print ordering mode involving the magneto-optic disk 32, which is currently being played back, is established) (col. 6, lines 12-15), a copying mode in which said copying unit is driven (pressing the copy switch 4 establishes a copy mode) (col. 5, lines 55-62), or a printing/copying mode (file integrating mode) in which said printing unit and said copying unit are substantially simultaneously driven (If the order switch 5 and copy switch 4 are pressed simultaneously (step S111 in FIG. 7), a transition is made to the file integrating mode. Whereas all images files that have been recorded on the memory card 31 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the copy mode, image files storing image data representing images to be printed are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the file integrating mode) (col. 12, lines 63-67, and col. 13, lines 1-7); and a control unit controlling said copying unit and said printing unit in the switched-to mode into which said switch unit has switched (Fig 7).

Tanaka fails to teach a device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a printing unit printing predetermined image information selected by said second selection unit.

Art Unit: 2626

Nihei teaches a device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a printing unit printing predetermined image information selected by said second selection unit (Fig. 2, Print 31) (image data representing a plurality of images that have been recorded on the memory card 34, magneto-optic disk 35 and magnetic disk 36 are read out by the multiple-printer control apparatus 1 and allocated to each printer of the printers 50A to 50E) (col. 3, lines 7-15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka with the teaching of Nihei to incorporate the multiple-printer control apparatus into the order integrating apparatus to allow for direct printing of the images.

8. Regarding Claim 9, Tanaka teaches a device, wherein said switch unit comprises a printing mode specification portion for specification of the printing mode (Fig. 7, S41), a copying mode specification portion for specification of the copying mode (Fig. 7, S91), and a printing/copying mode specification portion for specification of the printing/copying mode (Fig. 7, S111).

9. Regarding Claim 10, Tanaka teaches a device, wherein when said printing/copying mode specification portion specifies the printing/copying mode, said control unit drives said printing unit, performs the printing process, drives the copying unit, and performs a copying process among storage media (If the order switch 5 and copy switch 4 are pressed simultaneously (step S111 in FIG. 7), a transition is made to the file integrating mode. Whereas all images files that have been recorded on the memory card 31 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the copy mode, image files storing image data representing images to be printed

Art Unit: 2626

are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the file integrating mode) (col. 12, lines 63-67, and col. 13, lines 1-7)

10. Regarding Claim 11, Tanaka teaches a device, wherein there is one second storage medium which is a copying destination (image files and an order file that have been recorded on the memory card 31 inserted into the memory-card slot 10 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 inserted into the magneto-optic disk slot 12) (co. 5, lines 55-62).

11. Claim 14 is rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

12. Regarding Claim 15, Tanaka teaches a printer device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a first selection portion for selecting a first storage medium from a plurality of installed storage media memory card 31 and magneto-optic disk 32) (col. 5, lines 15-35); a second selection portion for selecting predetermined image information from image information stored in the selected first storage medium (order switch 5); a copying unit copying the predetermined image information selected by said second selection portion to a second storage medium different from the first storage medium (image files and an order file that have been recorded on the memory card 31 inserted into the memory-card slot 10 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 inserted into the magneto-optic disk slot 12) (col. 5, lines 55-62); and a continuous drive mode specification portion capable of specifying a continuous drive mode in which an operation of copying the predetermined image information to the second storage medium and an operation of printing the same image information can be continuously performed (If the order switch 5 and copy switch 4 are pressed

Art Unit: 2626

simultaneously (step S111 in FIG. 7), a transition is made to the file integrating mode. Whereas all images files that have been recorded on the memory card 31 are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the copy mode, image files storing image data representing images to be printed are copied to the magneto-optic disk 32 in the file integrating mode) (col. 12, lines 63-67, and col. 13, lines 1-7).

Tanaka fails to teach a printer device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a printing unit printing predetermined image information selected by said second selection portion.

Nihei teaches a printer device capable of installing a plurality of storage media, comprising: a printing unit printing predetermined image information selected by said second selection portion (Fig. 2, Print 31) (image data representing a plurality of images that have been recorded on the memory card 34, magneto-optic disk 35 and magnetic disk 36 are read out by the multiple-printer control apparatus 1 and allocated to each printer of the printers 50A to 50E) (col. 3, lines 7-15).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka with the teaching of Nihei to incorporate the multiple-printer control apparatus into the order integrating apparatus to allow for direct printing of the images.

13. Claim 22 is rejected for the same reason as claim 15.

14. Claims 7, 8, 12, 13, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka and Nihei as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sasaki et al. (US 6,867,879).

Art Unit: 2626

15. Regarding Claim 7, Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, wherein said second selection unit selects the predetermined image information from among at least: an all frame specification mode in which all image information stored in the selected first storage medium is specified; a reservation mode in which specific image information is arbitrarily specified from image information stored in the selected first storage medium; and a camera specification mode in which information preset for the image information stored in the selected first storage medium is specified.

Sasaki et al teach a device, wherein said second selection unit selects the predetermined image information from among at least: an all frame specification mode in which all image information stored in the selected first storage medium is specified (image data file 73); a reservation mode in which specific image information is arbitrarily specified from image information stored in the selected first storage medium (print marker file 75); and a camera specification mode in which information preset for the image information stored in the selected first storage medium is specified (panorama marker file 74) (the printer has a standard mode to print an image onto a paper of standard size and a panorama mode to print an image onto a paper of panorama size (col. 3, lines 54-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei with the teaching of Sasaki to allow for printing the images in different modes.

16. Regarding Claim 8, Tanaka teaches a device, further comprising a display device capable of performing a displaying process for specification of any of the

Art Unit: 2626

modes and displaying image information, wherein said control unit allows the mode status and image information selected by said second selection unit to be displayed while an operator is watching the display device (monitor 18) (image represented by image data that has been recorded on the memory card³¹ or magneto-optic disk drive 28 is displayed on the display screen of the monitor 18) (col. 6, lines 52-58).

17. Regarding Claim 12, Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, wherein when said plurality of storage media are installed on a plurality of storage medium installation units assigned priority orders, and before said first selection unit selects said first storage medium, said control unit determines whether or not readable and displayable image exists, and, when readable and displayable images are contained in the plurality of storage media, a storage medium having a highest priority order is index-displayed based on the priority order.

Sasaki et al teach a device, wherein when said plurality of storage media are installed on a plurality of storage medium installation units assigned priority orders, and before said first selection unit selects said first storage medium, said control unit determines whether or not readable and displayable image exists (Fig. 9, S92), and, when readable and displayable images are contained in the plurality of storage media, a storage medium having a highest priority order is index-displayed based on the priority order (Fig. 9, S94) (col. 14, lines 14-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei

Art Unit: 2626

with the teaching of Sasaki, to allow for easy confirmation of the printing operation.

18. Regarding Claim 13, Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, wherein when said copying mode is performed, said control unit detects a remaining storage capacity of the second storage medium, and issues a warning when said control unit determines that the storage capacity is insufficient.

Sasaki et al teach a device, wherein when said copying mode is performed, said control unit detects a remaining storage capacity of the second storage medium, and issues a warning when said control unit determines that the storage capacity is insufficient (Fig. 8, S85)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei with the teaching of Sasaki, to let a user know that the memory for copying image data is insufficient.

19. Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as claim 7.

20. Claim 17 is rejected for the same reason as claim 17.

21. Regarding Claim 18, Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, wherein when said detection unit determines that the remaining storage capacity of the storage medium of the copying destination is small, and a copying operation cannot be performed, only a printing operation is performed.

Sasaki et al teach a device, wherein when said detection unit determines that the remaining storage capacity of the storage medium of the copying

Art Unit: 2626

destination is small, and a copying operation cannot be performed, only a printing operation is performed (Fig. 8, S87-88).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei with the teaching Sasaki to allow the printing operation to proceed even if there is not sufficient memory to store the image data.

22. Regarding Claim 19, Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, wherein when said detection unit determines that the remaining storage capacity of the storage medium of the copying destination is small, and a copying operation cannot be performed, a warning that no copy is made is issued, and only a printing operation is performed.

Sasaki et al teach a device, wherein when said detection unit determines that the remaining storage capacity of the storage medium of the copying destination is small, and a copying operation cannot be performed, a warning (display lamp 27) that no copy is made is issued, and only a printing operation is performed (Fig. 8, S87-88).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei with the teaching Sasaki to allow the printing operation to proceed even if there is not sufficient memory to store the image data.

23. Regarding Claim 20, Tanaka teaches a device, further comprising: a display device capable of displaying the selected mode and image information (monitor 18).

Art Unit: 2626

Tanaka and Nihei fail to teach a device, further comprising: detection unit detecting a remaining storage capacity of a storage medium of a copying destination when the continuous drive mode is specified by said continuous drive mode specification portion.

Sasaki et al teach a device, further comprising: detection unit detecting a remaining storage capacity of a storage medium of a copying destination when the continuous drive mode is specified by said continuous drive mode specification portion (Fig. 8, S85).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Tanaka and Nihei with the teaching of Sasaki, to let a user know that the memory for copying image data is insufficient.

24. Claim 21 is rejected for the same reason as claim 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

25. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2626

Rissman (US 6,552,743) discloses a system and method utilizing a digital camera ready printer which can print directly from a variety of conventional digital cameras on the market.

Battaglia et al. (US 6,658,202) discloses a hand-held battery powered device for transferring data between one or more flash memory modules and a mass storage device.

Suzuki (US 6,782,434) discloses an apparatus and method for transferring information among variety of information recording and reproducing apparatus.

Nitta US 6,882,440) discloses a printer, image processing device, image processing method, and recording medium.

Romano et al. (US 2003/0156200) discloses a printing system and method having a docking digital print that used a digital camera image display.

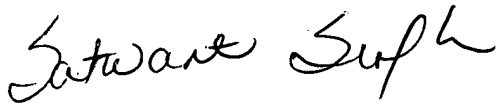
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

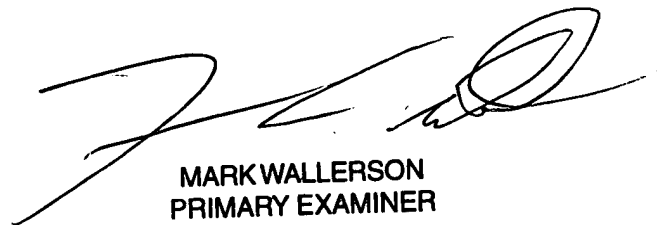
Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



sks

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2626



MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER